CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 13, No. 8 | TORONTO, FEBRUARY 25, 1948 | $2.00 Per Annum

Tax Opposed By Labor Unions

1,606 Theatres In Dom'n Last Year

There were 1,606 motion picture theatres showing 35 mm. films in Canada and Newfoundland in 1947, a record number, according to the annual summary of the Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association, compiled from the reports of the

(Continued on Page 7)

Exhibs Prep For Capac Meeting

Representatives of Canadian exhibitors' associations are expected to meet shortly with those of the Musical Protective Society of Canada to prepare for coming discussions with the Composers, Authors and Publishers Association of Canada on the subject of

(Continued on Page 9)

Ontario Federation Asks Drew Not To Allow Re-imposition

The most important opposition yet to municipalities being empowered to levy a tax on theatre admissions was expressed to Premier George Drew of Ontario last week by the Ontario Provincial Federation of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. A deputation of 200 met with the Premier and its spokesmen pointed out that Ottawa had indicated its intention of vacating the amusement tax field.

If the amusement tax is reimposed, said the spokesmen, it would create a hardship for the working man and his family as this is the one type of amusement that was available at low cost. Last week Mayor Robert

(Continued on Page 3)

BE VIGILANT !

The scourge of fire has made itself felt recently in Canada in greater force than ever before, perhaps because of the pressure on heating equipment during zero weather.

Theatres have been getting their share of these increased threats to life and property.

It is the duty of every theatre official to his community and to the industry to not overlook a single thing which can lead to fire or loss of life through panic.

Projectionists, managers, doormen, ushers, sweepers and all who have anything to do

(Continued on Page 7)

Theatre Planned

A drive-in theatre, costing approximately $150,000, is being planned for Islington, near Toronto in Ontario.

Equipment Parts Import Okayed

Importation of replacement and repair parts for motion picture equipment, banned under the new tariff regulations issued on November 18th and permitted again on and after January 3rd, became official through revisions of Schedule Three, which was placed

(Continued on Page 7)

Alan Field Now NFB Secretary

Alan Field, formerly head of the National Film Board newsreel unit, has returned to the Board from his position as executive assistant to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Field has been appointed secretary to the National Film Board

(Continued on Page 9)

Film Lab Damaged By Blaze, Explosion

An explosion which followed a small fire in the positive assembly room of Audio Pictures' plant outside Toronto did considerable damage but failed to hinder service to theatres. Employees went to the hospital at the instructions of the firm for oxygen treatment to counteract the possible effects of nitric smoke but none was injured or suffered ill effects. The fire caused a stoppage of work in some departments for two days.

The fire, which began during lunch hour when two employees were in the assembly room, is assumed to have begun when an

(Continued on Page 3)

Michael Curtiz Pic

Michael Curtiz Productions' next film for Warner Brothers' release will be the Technicolor musical, "My Dreams Is Yours."

Fire Destroys Four Canadian Theatres

It appears even this early that 1948 will be the most serious in theatre and film history from a standpoint of fire damage. Four theatres have been destroyed this month. No lives were lost.

The Cartier, 600-seat Rimouski, Quebec theatre, operated by D. Madore, was almost wiped out by fire, as was the Gaiety, a 350-seat house owned by M. Pyrez. Within the same week Odeon's Kent in Moncton, NB, suffered $75,000 damage and the Spencer-FPC house in Kentville, NS, was destroyed by a $100,000 conflagration. Heating apparatus is where the fire originated in the latter two houses. They will both be rebuilt.

The greatest vigilance must be exercised, with staff consultations and fire drills held regularly.

Government officials are intensifying inspection and making a fresh study of regulations in some provinces.

Ottawa And Industry Agree In Principle

An agreement in principle between the Canadian motion picture industry, through its representatives, and Ottawa has been reached in the matter of offsetting part of the money ordinarily remitted to the USA from this country. Trade and Commerce Minister C. D. Howe told the House of Commons that negotiations were under way "which promise a very substantial quid pro quo to offset the drain of dollars caused by the industry."

He was not prepared to disclose details "but I think I can say Canada will get good value

(Continued on Page 3)

Toomey's 450th Role

Regis Toomey has been signed for his 450th role in films, that being in Monogram's "I Wouldn't Be in Your Shoes."

T-Men

The Tough! Tense! Terrific! and True! EAGLE LION (Hollywood) HIT

Now 2nd BIG Week—ELGIN, Ottawa—First Canadian Engagement

• From INTERNATIONAL FILM DISTRIBUTORS Limited •

"...I looked in his eyes...and knew I was seeing DEATH staring back!"
From behind a forbidden door..swept the fear that stalked each embrace..!
WALTER WANGER presents
JOAN BENNETT
MICHAEL REDGRAVE
in FRITZ LANG'S
Secret BEYOND THE DOOR...

MICHAEL REDGRAVE
in his first
American Triumph!

From Rufus King's
REDBOOK Sensation!

with **ANNE REVERE** BARBARA O'NEIL · NATALIE SCHAFER

A DIANA PRODUCTION · Screenplay by SILVIA RICHARDS · A UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL RELEASE

Cash In On The Extensive Radio Network Plugs This Attraction Has Received, By Setting An Early Playdate NOW!

Produced and Directed by
FRITZ LANG
of "Scarlet Street" and
"Woman in the Window" Fame!

FROM *Empire-Universal* **FILMS LIMITED**

Flames, Explosion Damage Film Lab

(Continued from Page 1)

electric light fixture broke and ignited film but the cause nas not been determined. Nitric gas entered air conditioning ducts, causing damage outside the assembly room, which is protected strongly to limit effect of an explosion. Heavy damage was done to the roof and it is expected that all repairs can be completed within a month.

Provincial and local fire chiefs investigated the fire to determine its exact cause in the interests of devising additional protection. It was found that the company had met all regulations and had installed extra safeguards not required by the specifications. These special measures, making Audio one of the safest film plants on the continent, were responsible for the comparatively minor damage.

Between the time of the fire and the explosion about 30 employees vacated the plant. Those in the room where the fire occurred and the others in the building followed fire drill instructions immediately and were soon safe. While the area of important damage was limited, the explosion blew out windows in that part of the building. Plaster was loosened in the general office and the heating and water equipment affected for a few days.

Fire reels from the vicinity were on hand in a few minutes, since the sprinkler system is connected with the alarm boards.

Not a single foot of negative film was lost, although there are about 10 million feet stored. Distribution heads found that there was nothing to worry about so far as negatives were concerned. Films awaiting processing are not needed for months to come and any delay which might result will not affect bookings. About half of the prints used in Canadian theatres are printed in Film Laboratories of Canada, which occupies part of the plant.

Lucknow Manager Dies In Storm

Rex Ostrander, manager of the Lucknow, Ontario, theatre, a 16 mm. operation, was killed in an automobile accident recently. His car skidded off the road during one of the worst storms experienced in Ontario in years and crashed into a snowbank.

When discovered, Ostrander was lying beside his car and died of a broken neck and internal injuries in the ambulance on the way to the hospital.

Ottawa And Industry Agree In Principle

(Continued from Page 1)

from the industry in return for permitting the industry to take Canadian dollars across the line."

The subject of movies came up when H. W. Herridge, Independent from Kootenay West, asked why certain necessary goods were being banned from Canada while Hollywood movies were being allowed in. Minister of Finance Douglas Abbott said the government wanted to interfere as little as possible with established industries on which a great many people depended.

The entertainment industry, he added, employed a great many people and was "certainly not patronized only by the upper ten." It would not be wise nor even desirable to cut it off in any way. He didn't believe that anyone would want to prohibit American movies.

Any measures by the movie industry to help Canada's dollar-saving program will be temporary, it is expected, and not severe when compared with the British action.

In a recent report of the United States Department of Commerce, Nathan D. Golden, motion picture consultant, admitted money restrictions would not be unexpected.

"Canadian film distributors and exhibitors feel there is extremely little likelihood," says his survey, "that Canada will copy Great Britain by imposing high taxes on U.S. films, or that Canada will greatly increase customs duties on U.S. films to help the Canadian (and perhaps British) foreign exchange positions. They consider that U.S. films are an essential Canadian import, the curtailment of which would result in dislocation and widespread dissatisfaction because British and other producers could not meet the demand either in quality or in quantity.

"It is acknowledged, however, that Canada may possibly feel forced to withhold temporarily all or a part of the monies payable to companies in the U.S. for the use of their films.

"In 1946, there were 799 feature films, 327 cartoons, 390 newsreels and 1,269 short subjects released for exhibition in Canada. Of the 799 feature films released, 638 were U.S. productions, 24 were British pictures, and 137 were from other countries. Films valued at $2,391,000 were imported during 1946 and proportionately a greater amount, $644,000, during the first quarter of 1947."

Golden also commented on Canada's growing interest in theatrical motion picture production.

Winnipeg Pioneers Stage Big Dance

The Winnipeg district branch of the Canadian Picture Pioneers has a great ball scheduled for Tuesday, February 24th. The entire eighth floor of the Marlborough Hotel will be occupied, while two dance bands will make music. The benevolent fund will benefit.

There were 1,400 at the recent dance of the Vancouver district branch.

Return Your Ballots

For the Annual

BOXOFFICE POLL

of the

Canadian Film Weekly

Tax Opposed By Labor Unions

(Continued from Page 1)

Saunders of Toronto, speaking to Drew for the Ontario Association of Mayors and Reeves, asked for the right to reimpose the tax or that the Province do it and allocate the returns for hospitals and relief.

The importance with which the possible reimposition of the tax is regarded by the Federation, which speaks for the main body of working people, is shown by the fact that it was included in a brief along with housing, occupational hazards, mothers' allowances, Dominion - Provincial relations, education, forestry, hydro, police, beer taxes, intimidation of unions, milk subsidies, old age pensions and other matters.

A number of Ontario newspapers have come out against any tax, while others favor it but say it ought to be reduced from the present 20 per cent. Support is growing for the contention of the National Committee of Motion Picture Exhibitors Associations of Canada that the tax for hospitals and relief, if imposed, should also go on many articles sold across the counter. In this way it would be borne equally by all sections of the population.

Among the many papers against the tax are the London Free Press and the Regina Leader Post.

Opposed to a Provincial or municipal tax is Mayor Garfield Anderson of Fort William, Ontario, an executive of the mayor's association.

Film Weekly

Vol. 13, No. 8 Feb. 25, 1948

HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

Address all communications—The Managing Editor, Canadian Film Weekly, 25 Dundas Square, Toronto, Canada.

Entered as Second Class Matter.

Published by Film Publications of Canada, Ltd., 25 Dundas Square, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Phone ADelaide 4317. Price 5 cents each or $2.00 per year.

WE WISH to thank our many friends for their sympathetic attitude and their offers of co-operation in conjunction with the recent fire in our new Studio.

Contrary to exaggerated press accounts, not one of our employees was injured and, due to the fireproof nature of our buildings, damage was held to a minimum.

We are proud to announce that, after a three-day interval, we are again in 100 per cent operation.

FILM LABORATORIES OF CANADA **AUDIO PICTURES LIMITED**

310 Lakeshore Road, Toronto 14.

TRADE "QUOTES"

CAPTAIN BOYCOTT

. . . fine quality of performance, direction, dialog and story.
— Box Office

Compelling drama.
— Film Daily

☆

THE WHITE UNICORN

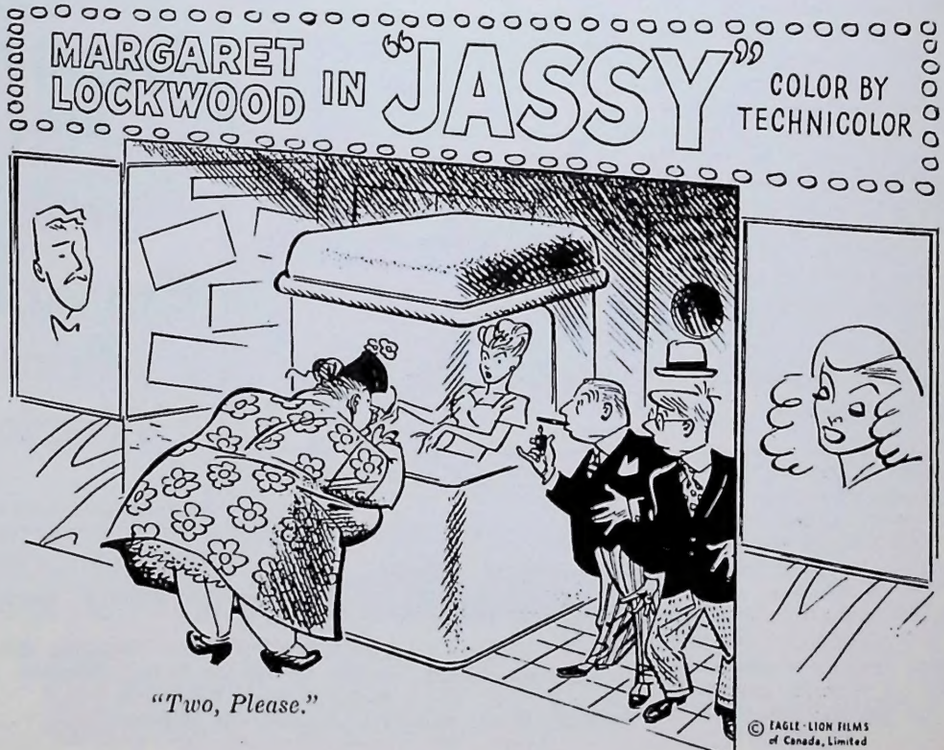
. . . it is assured of terrific Box Office success . . .
. . . strong feminine appeal . . .
— Showmen's Trade Review (reviewed in London)

☆

WOMAN IN THE HALL

. . . production values are excellent . . .
. . . the acting is of a high standard . . .
— Showmen's Trade Review (reviewed in London)

It's a problem!



"Two, Please."

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 13, No. 8 REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK $2.00 Per Annum

It Had To Be You

with Ginger Rogers, Cornel Wilde

Columbia 98 Mins.

BRAND NEW COMEDY GIMMICK IN THIS ONE: SHOULD GO PLACES, BUT GOOD.

Freud, dream symbolism, childhood romantic fixations and maybe a couple of more gimmicks stemming from a jocular approach to psychology and psychiatry are responsible for this brand new farce which fairly defies classification. Feasibility of it becoming a big money grossing entertainment is very apparent.

After being led to the altar three times with three different men, all of them stuffed shirts, with fancy sounding names, Miss Rogers, who just could not bring herself to say "I do," runs off to Maine to rest a month and find herself. Later, she wires her latest, Ron Randell, "yes." Returning to New York she dreams about an Indian interfering with her marital plans. She awakes startled. The Indian, Cornel Wilde, is in the upper berth in her drawing room. She's embarrassed, scared stiff.

From that point on Wilde intrudes himself in the "Stafford" household and after a few days Wilde, because he cannot be explained away in so many words, seizes Miss Rogers' attention and reveals why he is on the scene. He is an image she retained from the time she was six, at a birthday party, when, while playing at childish kissing games, she bussed a boy costumed as an Indian.

With the fictional freedom of the story, it comes about that there is a "Johnny Blaine," also Wilde, now grown up to be a fireman. Miss Rogers locates him on the advice of Indian Wilde, and after that it is duck soup. But it is a raucous duck soup full of violent and funny waves that finally culminate when Miss Rogers is about to marry Randell. Indian Wilde saves the day. He calls for fire engines. Fireman Wilde dashes in, makes off with Miss Rogers and last seen they are happily careening off on a hook and ladder.

CAST: Ginger Rogers, Cornel Wilde, Percy Waram, Spring Byington, Ron Randell, Thurston Hall, Charles Evans.

CREDITS: A Don Hartman Production; Norman Deming assistant to the producer; Directors Don Hartman, Rudolph Mate; Screenplay, Norman Panama, Melvin Frank; Story, Don Hartman, Allen Boretz; Photography, Rudolph Mate, Vincent Farrar.

DIRECTION, First Rate. PHOTOGRAPHY, Fine.

Mourning Becomes Electra

with Rosalind Russell, Michael Redgrave, Raymond Massey, Katina Paxinou, Leo Genn, Kirk Douglas, Henry Hull, Nancy Coleman

Theatre Guild-RKO 173 Mins.

BOLD, MATURE STEP AHEAD: GOOD FOR A LONG HAUL WITH THE ADULT AUDIENCE, THE FILM VERSION OF EUGENE O'NEILL'S GREAT PLAY SHOULD GIVE EMINENT SATISFACTION.

First, this film in its themes, treatment and handling is a bold and highly mature step ahead. It could be a trailblazer in the creation of adult films for adult audiences. The substance of the cinematic dramatic shadows, heretofore fashioned in writing and eventually moulded in production to fit what has been termed the general audience, in "Mourning Becomes Electra" strikes off a new tangent to pave the way for full appreciation by an audience that has long stayed away.

It is not a perfect film work. The production technique does not fully utilize the fluidity of the film medium. Performances, too, tend to get out of hand at times and there is a tendency to flamboyant overacting. There are noticeable moments when what is transpiring seems to be photography of a stage production. These shortcomings, however, are overcome by the majestic dramatic power of the script and the sheer artistry of the cast. When faults are apparent the mounting tensions of the looming tragedy becloud them and attention is riveted once more to what is unfolding.

O'Neill's play deals with the tottering and final thorough collapse of a once strong and powerful Massachusetts family in the period immediately following the Civil War. The structure is undermined by intense hatred. There is little normal love in the Mannon family. Ezra Mannon, the father, is at war. His wife, Christine, hopes he is killed. Lavinia, their daughter, knows her mother has been clandestinely meeting Adam Brant, a ship captain, employed by Mannon. Orrin, the son, intensely loved and strangely loved by his mother, is wounded and returns a bewildered soldier to find his father dead, poisoned by Christine. Lavinia knows the cause of her father's death but Christine, because of their mutual intense love, leads Orrin to disbelieve Lavinia when she attempts to reveal the truth.

Lavinia at length induces Orrin to see her method and they go to Boston following Christine, who has another meeting with Brant. After this Orrin kills Brant. He confronts his mother with what he has done. She kills herself.

Lavinia and Orrin go to the South Seas for a year. On their return Orrin returns to his demented state and writes a history of their strange family and the insane quirks that gave tragic consequence to all exposed to it. Lavinia, in Orrin's eyes, takes on the semblance of the dead mother. He tries to transfer the abnormal love he had for his parent to his sister. She is anxious to be free and tries to kindle his interest in Hazel, a neighbor. Also, she wants to marry Hazel's brother, Peter. Orrin plans that Peter should know fully about the Mannon family before he marries Lavinia. Then he, too, kills himself. Lavinia destroys the papers. Hazel, now aware of the Mannon family's unsavory past and present, induces Lavinia to give Peter up. She breaks with him, retires to the imposing Mannon home to become a living corpse in a shuttered tomb.

CAST: Rosalind Russell, Michael Redgrave, Raymond Massey, Katina Paxinou, Leo Genn, Kirk Douglas, Nancy Coleman, Henry Hull, Sara Allgood, Thurston Hall.

CREDITS: Produced and directed by Dudley Nichols in association with The Theatre Guild; Music, Richard Hageman; Production design, William E. Flannery; Art director, Albert S. D'Agostino; Special effects, Vernon I. Walker, Russell A. Cully.

DIRECTION, Effective. PHOTOGRAPHY, Fine.

FOR SALE

Used

NORTHERN ELECTRIC
UNIVERSAL BASE SOUND SYSTEM

Complete With
MOTIOGRAPH PROJECTORS, MAGAZINES
STRONG ZIPPER CHANGEOVERS

All in FIRST CLASS CONDITION

Can Be INSTALLED By DOMINION SOUND

Wire, Phone or Write to the
PARK THEATRE, WINNIPEG

A Woman's Vengeance

with Charles Boyer, Ann Blyth, Jessica Tandy

Empire-Universal 96 Mins.

FEMMES PLUS BOYER EQUALS BOXOFFICE: THE COMBINATION ADDS UP HERE AGAIN IN STORY BY HUXLEY.

Years ago Aldous Huxley, in a story collection under the heading of "These Mortal Coils," wrote an opus called "The Giaconda Smile." It was a neat, compact job then. If memory serves somebody did in his wife. Then a smart twist served the ends of justice. In substance, it reflected the Huxley of that day.

Huxley has altered his story as "A Woman's Vengeance." Women being women, and Boyer being Boyer, there's the magic rub for the boxoffice. Enhance Boyer with a pointed up ad campaign intensifying the basic story and there should be a surge to the ticket window.

Much of the newly composed Huxley dialogue and situation is given to introspective brooding, mysticism and the examination of Hindu idols and their religious significance. It all sounds very lofty. But it lacks lustre.

Boyer, a country gentleman, is carrying on a sub rosa affair with Ann Blyth. His wife, Miss Kempson, is a semi invalid. Next door lives Jessica Tandy, one-time intellectual companion to Boyer, lately getting on to spinsterhood but bearing a torch for her neighbor. Miss Kempson dies. Miss Tandy later has the body dug up, a post mortem performed. Meanwhile Boyer has married Miss Blyth, she's pregnant. He is arrested, faces trial and the circumstantial evidence convicts him. Sir Cedric Harwicke, the local medico, has his own ideas and just before Boyer is about to be executed he gets the truth out of Miss Tandy.

Miss Tandy is from the stage. She is not seen to best advantage. Boyer is effective. Hardwicke gracefully acquits himself. Mildred Natwick has some of the best moments. Ann Blyth does all right as a pretty young thing who falls afoul of Miss Tandy's machinations. Zoltan Korda directed.

CAST: Charles Boyer, Ann Blyth, Jessica Tandy, Sir Cedric Harwicke, Mildred Natwick, Cecil Humphreys, Hugh French, Rachel Kempson.

CREDITS: Produced and directed by Zoltan Korda; Written for the screen by Aldous Huxley; Art direction, Bernard Herzbrun, Eugene Lourie; Photography, Russell Metty.

DIRECTION, Able. PHOTOGRAPHY, Fine.

Unforgotten

News Notes

The Gaunt, Melancholy Man

Not long ago I was strolling along a shabby street and the curious phrase "Jack Himself," on the grimy window of a second-hand shop, stopped me. Through the glass, among an unorderly display of articles, I noticed a dull bronze medallion of Abraham Lincoln.

I acquired it. On the obverse side, bordered by both his names, Lincoln's head projects in marked relief, and on the reverse side, enwreathed, are the dates of both his inaugurations as the sixteenth president of the United States, as well as the date of his assassination, April 14, 1865.

The medallion is a fine example of the coiner's art, about three inches high and about a quarter of an inch thick at its thinnest point. I do not know when or by whom it was struck. But it appealed to me and brought closer the man it honors.

No individual in non-biblical history so commands enduring reverence as this man. To him fell the heart-gnawing task of leading a war between brothers; a war fought to preserve a union "conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal," and "that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

The triumph of Lincoln's principles kept alive what was to become one of the greatest forces for good in history, the union known as the United States of America. It disestablished an evil which had become part of the life of his country, the evil of human slavery. It gave the world a higher standard of morality.

* * *

Canada, linked to the United States by the common ancestry of most of its inhabitants and the source of its dominating culture, has an even greater bond through its sons who fought at the side of Lincoln and his supporters. Part of Canada's contribution to the victory of the Republic can be learned from the Rev. William H. Withrow's "History of Canada," printed in Toronto in 1883:

"The first shot fired on the flag of the Republic reverberated through the nation. North and South rushed to arms. A royal proclamation, issued May 13, enjoined strict neutrality of all British subjects, and recognized the belligerent rights of the South. Such, however, was Canada's sympathy with the North in this war for human freedom, — for such it ultimately proved to be, — that before its close fifty thousand of her sons enlisted in the Northern armies, and many lost their lives for what they felt to be a sacred cause, while comparatively few entered the armies of the South.

"At the battle of Bull Run, on the 21st of July, were opened the sluices of the deep torrent of blood shed in this fratricidal war. For four long years of the nation's agony, that gory tide ebbed and flowed over those fair and fertile regions from the valley of the Potomac to the Gulf of Mexico, from the Atlantic to the Mississippi; carrying sorrow and death into almost every hamlet in the Union, and into many a Canadian home; costing a million of lives and millions of treasure; but let us thank God! emancipating forever four millions of slaves."

But the South also had its adherents here. With the increasing success of the Northern armies many Southern refugees came and these organized raids from this side of the border until the government took action to stop them. Relations between Canada and the United States became embittered and this was partly responsible for the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty in existence then.

* * *

Two decades before the Civil War the Canadas, Upper and Lower (roughly Quebec and Ontario) became Canada — but not the Canada of now. Confederation, which brought the Atlantic provinces into the new state called the Dominion of Canada and opened a way for the others, did not come until 1867. It was being vigorously debated while the United States fought to save its form of union and both subjects shared the talk of the day.

The benefits of a union of those on this side of the United States boundary must have been brought home strongly by the gigantic efforts of our neighbors to overcome early adversity and preserve theirs. The murder of "the simple, honest, magnanimous Abraham Lincoln" could not have been without influence in creating interest in Confederation as a Canadian equivalent to the political pattern of his country.

"The heart of Canada was deeply stirred," wrote Withrow. "Crowded meetings for the expression of national sympathy were held, and the utmost detestation of the crime was avowed. Amid tolling bells, flags at half-mast, and mourning emblems, the obsequies of the martyred president were celebrated throughout the land; and much of the growing estrangement of recent years between the two nations was overcome by this exhibition of popular sentiment and good-will."

Our concepts of democracy and freedom are the same as those for which Abraham Lincoln lived and died. Together our country and his have defended them since his death, just as so many of our countrymen did while he lived.

And so, since he belonged to us also, we cherish his memory and uphold his principles, still valid in a troubled world.

* * *

To return to the medallion.

On it Lincoln's face has the firm character, the nobleness of mind and the sadness of the war years. That face, as a guide to what lies behind it, has held the imagination of each succeeding generation. "He has a face like a Hoosier Michael Angelo, so awful ugly it becomes beautiful, with its strange mouth, its deep cut, criss-cross lines . . .," Walt Whitman, who served as a volunteer nurse, wrote to friends.

"When last I saw him, a few weeks before his death, I was struck by his haggard, care-fraught face, so different from the sunny, gladsome countenance he first brought from Illinois," Horace Greely wrote.

I like to look at my medallion and think about it, to feel its weight in my hand and to sense its great strength. It is so much like the man it symbolizes — refined from the common earth, moulded yet rough, unyielding to abuse, shaped by powerful forces into something which reflects Man's better nature.

And with attributes that will last through the centuries to come.

Heard Hereabouts

Arch Jolley, MPTAO secretary, just getting over a painful illness . . . **Are you** the one who borrowed Archie Laurie's old scrapbook of fronts and exploitations? He's forgotten who borrowed it months ago . . . **Make sure** there isn't much smoke around the theatre. With so many fires, the public is getting panicky . . . **Fred Trebilcock** found it colder at the Mardi Gras and in Jacksonville, Florida than here . . . **Mel Jolley** of the Marks, Oshawa, is president of the Oshawa Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Several theatre owners have been fined and others face prosecution for allowing ice and snow to block exit doors . . . **With so much** Scotch whiskey exported "Table Topics" calls it "The Cup that Cheers the Pound Sterling". . . **Vaudeville isn't dead.** It's just hanging out elsewhere. Spike Jones and his musical mayhemers, brought here by Billy Cross and Babe White, pulled over 15,000 into the Coliseum at $2.25 tops . . . **The poor old** Hesperus is getting as many poundings as the Von Tirpitz did. "The Wreck of the Hesperus" was wrecked in the Audio explosion.

Young Jack Warner was in Vancouver and Calgary looking over the Canadian field and will be here soon . . . **A jerk** who slugged Max Pelly, manager of the Pix, when he asked three of them to take their places in the line was fined $100 or 20 days . . . **Associated Screen News,** through Jack Chisholm, offered its facilities, which weren't needed, to Audio. That's the spirit . . . **Myer Nackimson,** RKO Winnipeg manager, hereabouts helloing folks.

1,606 Theatres In Dom'n Last Year

(Continued from Page 1)

Canadian Film Boards of Trade in the six distribution territories. Seven of the theatres are in Newfoundland, which is served from Saint John, New Brunswick.

The number of Canadian movie houses has climbed steadily since the end of the war.

Regulations during hostilities banned theatre building or the reopening of dark houses. Quite a number of theatres closed during the depression, which continued into the first year of the war. For instance, the March, 1940, report for the 12 months prior to that date showed that 1,313 houses had been in operation but the 1944 report listed 1,286, a smaller number.

The 1947 figure was 113 higher than in 1946, 245 higher than 1945 and 320 higher than in 1944. The comparison is not exact, for the reports of 1944 and 1945 were from November to November. But the figures indicate the expansion of Canadian theatre operation.

In addition to 35 mm. theatres there are 16 mm. exhibitions carried on regularly in places for that purpose only and these are now rated as theatres by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The 1946 report of the Bureau gave 98 as the number and it is likely that it was increased last year. Formerly such exhibitors were all classed as "itinerants" but 1946 was the first year in which certain operations were recognized as theatres. Those listed as itinerants numbered 275 in 1946, 113 more than in 1945.

Other indications of the expansion of Canada's theatre industry are the many theatres opened since restrictions were lifted and the fact that about 100 are now in the course of construction, as well as the steady rise in rentals.

Total seating capacity in 1947 was 826,227, as compared with 775,552 in 1946, 727,041 in 1945 and 704,814 in 1944. The number of communities with theatres was 1,209 in 1947, 968 in 1946, 851 in 1945 and 790 in 1944.

Of the total number of 35 mm. theatres, 1,115 operated six or seven days weekly, 183 three or four days and 308 one or two days. There were 13 houses, with total seating of 3,585, closed in 1947 compared with 16 in 1946, 23 in 1945 and 43 in 1944.

Location of theatres according to distribution areas are: Vancouver, 146; Calgary, 212; Winnipeg, 336; Toronto, 450; Montreal, 304; and Saint John, 158. These figures do not represent the number of theatres in each province, since in several cases the territories include communities in several provinces.

BE VIGILANT !

(Continued from Page 1)

with a theatre must be vigilant and intelligent. They must be careful themselves and be observent of those things which others may have overlooked. These things must be reported immediately.

Entrances and exits must be clear at all times, particularly where ice and snow may have piled up. Patrons who light cigarettes must be warned. Nothing, absolutely nothing, must be overlooked that may contribute to danger.

The reputation of the theatre industry as one of Canada's safest is in your hands. But more important — so are the lives of your neighbors. All can be safe if you protect the place where you make your living.

MGM Title Change

"The Search" is the title given by MGM to its first film produced abroad with American stars and director since the war began. Heading the cast are Montgomery Clift, Aline MacMahon, Jarmila Novotna (of the Metropolitan Opera Company) and Wendell Corey.

Equipment Parts Import Okayed

(Continued from Page 1)

before the House of Commons recently.

It is considered that Ottawa realized machine shops of equipment firms would be rendered useless and exhibitors inconvenienced if the permit regulation was continued in the case of parts. Importation, however, is still subject to 15 per cent duty.

The regulations banned importation of major equipment such as projectors but were suspended for two months and put back again in February.

The revised X427H in Schedule Three of articles subject to import permit reads:

"Motion picture projectors for use with film one and one-eighth of an inch in width or over; electric rectifiers or generators designed for use with such motion picture or theatrical spot lights, light effect machines, not to include electric light bulbs, tubes or exciter lamps; complete parts for production use of motion picture projectors, arc lamps for motion picture work, motion picture or theatrical spot lights, light effect machines, motion picture screens, portable motion picture projectors with or without sound equipment, and electric rectifiers or generators designed for use with motion picture projectors."

National Services Head Honored

Mr. Fitzgibbons, who during the war was chairman of the Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee, was awarded the decoration for his outstanding national service and his leadership of the motion picture industry's war and post-war assistance to the Dominion.

Two of the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgibbons served with the American army during the war, while a daughter was in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Mr. and Mrs. John Joseph Fitzgibbons are shown in the photograph, taken shortly after the investiture in Ottawa of those named in the King's Honor List. Mr. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players Canadian Corporation and head of the Canadian Motion Picture National Services Committee, is wearing the CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire), officially awarded him at the investiture in the Government House by His Excellency Viscount Alexander, Governor General of Canada.

Understaffed House Closed By Inspector

Robert Hambleton's 547-seat Capitol Theatre in Simcoe, Ontario, was ordered shut for 24 hours by D. M. MacPherson, inspector of theatres for the Ontario Motion Picture Censorship and Theatre Inspection Branch, because theatre was inadequately staffed. MacPherson stopped the performance immediately on discovering that Hambleton was in the boxoffice and a 16-year-old boy was taking tickets, without anyone being in the theatre.

Warnings had been given in the past and the chief of police of Simcoe has been ordered to close the theatre at any time if the same conditions are found.

NFB's 'Hungry Minds' Televised By BBC

The National Film Board's short subject of the plight of Europe's children, "Hungry Minds," produced by Tom Daly to aid the Canadian Appeal for Children drive, has been used on television broadcasts of the British Broadcasting Corporation in England.

BBC used the film for its content and production value and not in aid of any appeal.

"MAY WE LET DOWN OUR HAIR AND TALK FRANKLY!"

M-G-M has more current pictures in the box-office headlines than any other company. *For instance:*

GREEN DOLPHIN STREET spectacular audience hit is hold-over champ.
(Lana Turner, Van Heflin, Donna Reed, Richard Hart)

CASS TIMBERLANE positively sensational in all early dates. For instance, it's M-G-M's 5-year high in Tulsa!
(Spencer Tracy, Lana Turner, Zachary Scott)

GOOD NEWS spreads Technicolor joy across the nation. Good news everywhere!
(June Allyson, Peter Lawford)

HIGH WALL is hair-raising! Audiences thrilled at Capitol, N. Y. World Premiere and all first bookings.
(Robert Taylor, Audrey Totter, Herbert Marshall)

KILLER McCOY is a socko entertainment delighting the folks from coast to coast.
(Mickey Rooney, Brian Donlevy, Ann Blyth)

Yes, the bald facts are that with these fine current entertainments and a terrific line-up of Big Ones coming, here's the new industry slogan—

M★G★M GREAT IN '48

Exhibs Prep For Capac Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

increased rates. Colonel John A. Cooper, secretary-treasurer of the Society, has been in touch with A. J. Mason of Springhill, Nova Scotia, who is secretary of the recently-formed National Committee of Motion Picture Exhibitors Associations of Canada.

Continuation of the existing rates until the beginning of 1949 was agreed to by Capac in October, 1947, after talks with exhibitor representatives, who accepted the principle of higher fees. No tariff was agreed on and this is subject to negotiation. If Capac and the exhibitors see eye to eye, a table of fees will be submitted to the Copyright Appeal Board in Ottawa for approval.

The present rates, at per seat per annum, are as follows:

1,600 seats and over	15c
801 to 1,599	12c
800 seat and under	10c
800 seat and under operating three days or less per week	5c

Minimum fee $10.

In the case of 16 mm. films, a $2 fee is levied against every four prints of each film or fewer and Soundies are treated in the same way.

The Theatre Owners of America, a USA exhibitors' organization, recently negotiated a scale with Ascap, American equivalent of Capac, which is as follows:

1,599 seats and over	25c
800 to 1,599 seats	19c
500-799 seats	12½c
499 seats and under	10c

The raise is about 20 per cent over previous rates in all but the 499-seat category, which remains the same.

'October Man' Preem Proceeds To Charity

Proceeds from the gala North American premiere of J. Arthur Rank's Gainsborough Studios' "The October Man" at the Fairlawn Theatre, Odeon unit in Toronto, on March 11th will go 100 per cent to charity. Sponsor is the Young Men's section of the Board of Trade and the money will be split between the London Lord Mayor's fund in England and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital here.

FOR SALE

Simplex Projectors, complete with 3 Point Stands, upper and lower magazines, Mazda Lamphouses and Regulators and R.C.A Sound Equipment.

Apply Charles F. Mavety,
277 Victoria St., Toronto.

Some Good Advice On Show Fire Safety

The following article is by Al Sedgewick of the Palace Theatre, St. Catharines, Ontario, and was printed in the Odeon News. Exhibitors will agree that it contains some valuable advice and should be posted on the notice boards of theatres and studied by all employees.

The most dangerous word in the English language contains only four letters. That word is FIRE. It has killed and injured thousands of people. And I don't mean fire itself. I just mean the word Fire. That one word shouted at the wrong time or in the wrong place has caused untold death and misery.

The natural reaction to that one small word is a most dangerous small word PANIC, and the two words go grimly hand in hand.

We in the theatre must consistently nurse a sincere dread of these two words.

In most cases of theatre fires, the loss of life which often ensues could be easily avoided if we could eliminate the panic which is born of fright and foolishness. Our theatre is clean, carefully inspected and very nearly fireproof but if one does not know exactly what to do when a fire occurs, many lives may be needlessly lost.

In the first place, if you see smoke or discover something burning the first thing to do is to spread the warning to every member of the staff who is in contact with the people in the theatre. In doing so never utter the word fire no matter how quietly. One rather novel practice is to say to the person you wish to inform that "Mr. Strife is in the house." He then immediately knows that he must be prepared for an emergency but if you are overheard by any of the patrons, they do not hear the word fire and therefore will not be any the wiser until the time comes when it may be necessary to properly inform them that the theatre must be cleared.

Another important thing to remember is DO NOT RUN OR SHOUT. To see an employee running in the theatre has the immediate effect of making the patrons feel that something is wrong and one excitable person can soon cause trouble.

You must of course know the location of every fire extinguisher in the building and how to use it. If the fire is easily controlled all you have to do is reassure anyone who seems worried that there is no danger and that everything is all right. Of course, unless the trouble is in the booth, the picture will be on the screen all this time and has a reassuring effect in itself.

If on the other hand it becomes necessary to have all patrons leave the theatre, a proper announcement will be made from the stage by either the manager or the assistant. Immediately this announcement is made all exits must be opened and everyone on the staff must in a clear, calm, confident tone (DON'T SHOUT) assure the patrons that if they leave quietly in an orderly fashion the theatre can be cleared in a very few minutes and with no danger whatever. It is most important that no matter how grave the situation may be, the staff must force itself to act in a cool confident efficient manner. (It's surprising how infectious it is.)

A phrase which has proved itself to have a quieting effect is "Take it Easy" — it may not be grammatical but it seems to work. Of course many others should also be used such as "PLEASE DO NOT CROWD" "THERE IS NO NEED TO BE ALARMED" "PLEASE LEAVE QUIETLY AND NO ONE WILL BE HURT" and of course suitable sayings may suggest themselves as one watches the crowd and notices its reaction.

Always remember that if panic can be avoided the chances of loss of life or injury are almost nil, so you have every reason to be confident that there is no danger if the patrons can be persuaded to leave quietly.

In any event never try to stop or direct them by physical force — patrons must be coaxed and steered to do the right thing. Trying to control a panicky crowd by force is impossible.

The above are just a few hints that it would be well for all theatres employees to keep in mind.

Let us all hope that we never have reason to use them.

Variety Meeting Will Honor Conn Smythe

Next monthly dinner meeting of the Toronto Variety Club Tent will be held at Malloney's Art Gallery, 66 Grenville Street, on Tuesday, February 24th, at 5.45 p.m. One of the features of the evening will be a tribute to Barker Connie Smythe, president of Maple Leaf Gardens, for his contribution to the recent hockey night, which added over $17,000 to the Heart Fund.

Business section of the meeting will begin promptly at 5.45, with refreshments and dinner following an hour later. Guests will be most of the outstanding sports figures of the city.

Alan Field Now NFB Secretary

(Continued from Page 1)

with special duties in reference to information and liaison.

He was born in Toronto in 1910 and subsequently worked there for the Wayne Pump Company and the Massey-Harris Company. For seven years prior to his joining the staff of NFB he was a free lance fiction and newspaper writer.

ALAN FIELD

After several years at the Board (where he was producer of the Canada Carries On series) he was loaned by the Canadian Government to the International Secretariat when he attended the Quebec and San Francisco conferences as liaison for newsreel work.

He also served as adviser to UNRRA and PICAO establishing their film and picture services.

In 1945 he became Director of Information Services for the Secretary of State and a year later accompanied the Hon. Paul Martin as executive assistant in the Department of National Health and Welfare. In December of 1947 he was recalled to the National Film Board to take up his present position.

New Columbia Film

Columbia will make a film of the radio show "Make Believe Ballroom."

WANTED

Two used projectors (less motors, amplifier, speakers). Mazda Lamp House preferred.

Apply BOX 11
CANADIAN FILM WEEKLY
25 Dundas Square, Toronto

Finalists Selected For Acad Oscars

Four American films and one British production have been nominated for the best picture award of 1947 by members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Hollywood.

"Great Expectations," the J. Arthur Rank production released in Canada by Eagle-Lion Films, is the English film named. The four American films are split evenly between two companies. Twentieth Century-Fox has "Gentleman's Agreement" and "Miracle on 34th Street;" while RKO has "Crossfire" and "The Bishop's Wife," the latter a Sam Goldwyn production.

For the acting Oscars, Ronald Colman, John Garfield, Gregory Peck, William Powell and Michael Redgrave were nominated among leading men, and Joan Crawford, Susan Hayward, Dorothy McGuire, Rosalind Russell and Loretta Young cited for best performance by an actress.

Miss Crawford, who won the best actress award two years ago, was named for her role in "Possessed."

Among supporting players, actors put up for the award included Charles Bickford, Thomas Gomez, Edmund Gwenn, Robert Ryan and Richard Widmark. Supporting actresses named were Ethel Barrymore, Gloria Grahame, Celeste Holm, Marjorie Main and Anne Revere.

New Nicolet Theatre

Gaston Allard recenty opened his newly-built 400-seat Gala Theatre in Nicolet, Quebec. He also operates the 200-seat Nicolet Theatre two days weekly in the same community.

Theatre Blackout Caused By Hydro

Theatres in all sections of greater Toronto and in some nearby suburbs were blacked out by cutting of electric power by the Ontario Hydro Commission last week. The unannounced rationing came as a complete surprise and caught many theatres unprepared. Supply was shut off for half-hour periods.

Some theatres were fortunate in having an independent power generator and lit the auditorium by that means.

First run theatres advertised that a complete show would be seen and as a result many of them ran as much as an hour and a half late. Nabes started their last show at the usual time regardless of the fact that it happened in the middle of the feature. Patrons regarded the whole thing good humoredly and very few asked for refunds.

The CRITICS RAVE
LOUELLA PARSONS says:
"WELL WORTH SEEING"
SCREEN ROMANCES says:
"SHOULD GET AN AWARD FOR TENSE SUSPENSE and ROMANTIC THRILLS!"
FILM DAILY says:
"DRAMATIC PUNCH!! SOUND SHOWMANSHIP!!"
ARPI PRODUCTIONS presents
FOR YOU I DIE
Starring
Cathy DOWNS • Paul LANGTON
with Mischa AUER • Roman BOHNEN
Marion KERBY • Jane WEEKS • Manuela CALLEJO
Production and Screenplay ROBERT PRESNELL, SR. • Direction JOHN REINHARDT
DEADLY...to oppose!
DANGEROUS...to expose!
ASTRAL FILMS
A Film Classics Production

Miami Ready To Welcome Variety

More than 450 hotel rooms have already been made available at leading hotels in Miami Beach for the 12th annual convention of Variety Clubs International, according to Doug Raff, hotel committee chairman.

"Rates for the rooms range from $6 up single, and from $8 double. Highest price offered in the current list is $10 double, but there will be other accommodations available at higher prices," Raff said.

Headquarters hotel will be the Roney Plaza. Raff emphasized that rooms in this hotel will be allocated mostly to international officers and canvasmen and to chief barkers of the various tents. He pointed out that other hotels are offering accommodations of the same high standard as those available at the Roney, that they have beaches, pools, restaurants and every other facility, and are in every case within easy walking distance of the Roney Plaza.

Requests for rooms, Raff stated, should be sent to him, as chairman of hotel committee, at Variety Club of Greater Miami, Alcazar Hotel, Miami, Florida.

The host tent, No. 33, has lined up a great program of entertainment which is expected to be part of the greatest convention in Variety history.

McLeod To Direct

Norman Z. McLeod will direct Paramount's "It's Always Spring," which will star Veronica Lake, Mary Hatcher, Mona Freeman, Billy De Wolfe, Roland Culver, Patric Knowles and Pearl Bailey.

L. J. Schlaifer Named Heineman Assistant

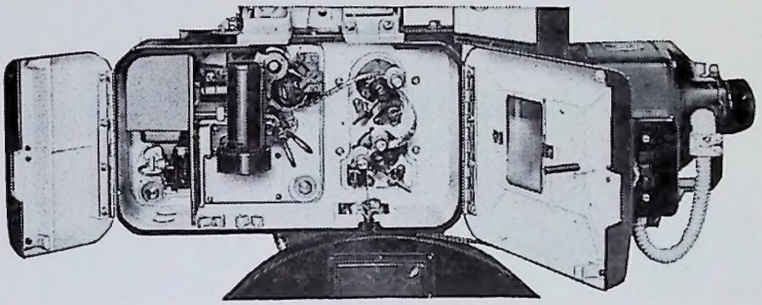
L. J. (Jack) Schlaifer, veteran distribution executive and most recently director of sales for Allied Artists and Monogram, has been named to the newly-created post of assistant to the vice-president in charge of distribution for Eagle Lion (Hollywood) Films by William J. Heineman, under whom he will work.

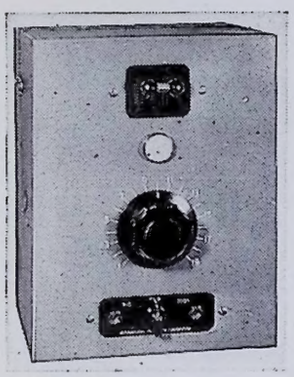
Schlaifer has had a long career in the industry, joining Warners as early as 1912 at their Minneapolis exchange. Promotions carried him to the management of that company's Calgary and Edmonton branches. Firms he later was affiliated with included Universal Pictures, Unicorn, United Artists, Edward Small Productions and 20th Century-Fox. In 1945 he joined Monogram from which company he came to Eagle Lion.

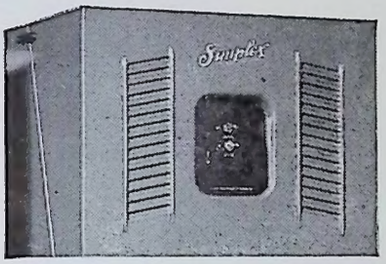
Simplex Four Star

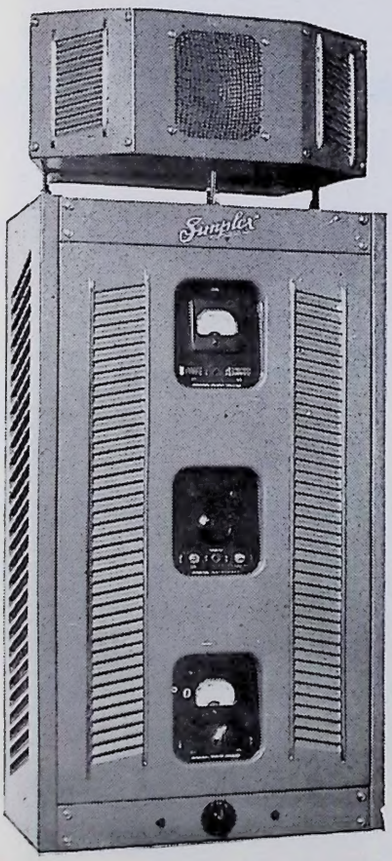
SOUND SYSTEMS

FIRST CHOICE OF LEADING THEATRES EVERYWHERE



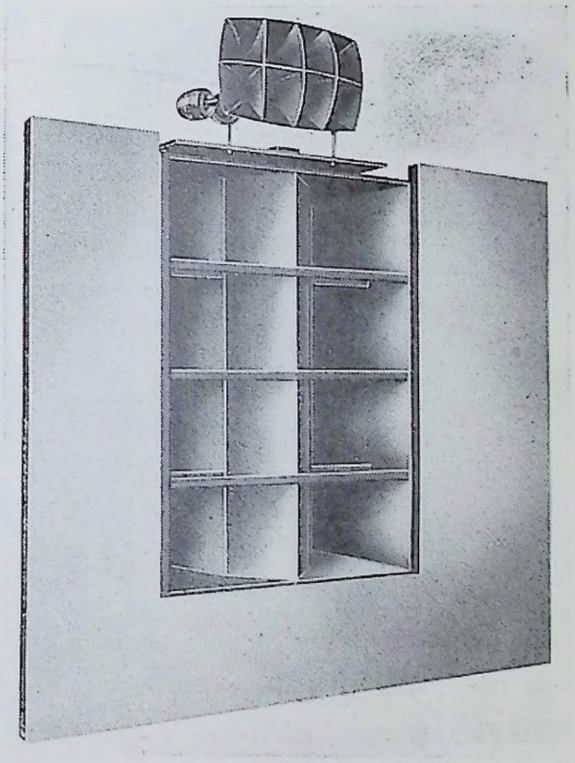






RECENT INSTALLATIONS

Town	Theatre
BARRIE, ONT.	GRANADA
AHUNTSIC, P.Q.	AHUNTSIC
BEAUSEJOUR, MAN.	STAR
BEDFORD, P.Q.	BEDFORD
CHICOUTIMI, P.Q.	IMPERIAL
CORNWALL, ONT.	PALACE
CRYSTAL BEACH, ONT.	BEACH
DELHI, ONT.	CAPITOL
GRAND FORKS, B.C.	NEW
HAMILTON, ONT.	KENILWORTH
HAMILTON, ONT.	KENMORE
HAMILTON, ONT.	REGENT
HAMILTON, ONT.	STRAND
HAWKESBURY, ONT.	REGENT
HULL, P.Q.	FIGARO
HULL, P.Q.	LAURIER
KIRKLAND LAKE, ONT.	LA SALLE
LETHBRIDGE, ALTA.	CAPITOL
LIMOLIEU, P.Q.	NEW
MAILLARDVILLE, B.C.	WOOD'S
MELVILLE, SASK.	ROXY
MONTREAL, P.Q.	AVENUE
MONTREAL, P.Q.	IMPERIAL
MONTREAL, P.Q.	VAN HORNE
NORANDA, P.Q.	NORANDA
NORTH BAY, ONT.	CAPITOL
OSHAWA, ONT.	REGENT
OTTAWA, ONT.	ELMDALE
OTTAWA, ONT.	LITTLE ELGIN
OTTAWA, ONT.	NELSON
PORT PERRY, ONT.	LAKEVIEW
REGINA, SASK.	ROXY
ST. LAURENT, P.Q.	NORMANDIE
SUDBURY, ONT.	CENTURY
TIMMINS, ONT.	VICTORY
TORONTO, ONT.	GLENDALE
TORONTO, ONT.	NORTOWN
TORONTO, ONT.	OAKWOOD
TORONTO, ONT.	PALACE
TORONTO, ONT.	VAUGHAN
VICTORIA, B.C.	ROYAL
WEST LORNE, ONT.	ROYAL
YELLOWGRASS, SASK.	STRAND



DISTRIBUTED BY

TORONTO
104 Bond Street
•
MONTREAL
366 Mayor Street

GENERAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

VANCOUVER
963 Granville Street
•
WINNIPEG
510 Canada Bldg.

The most acclaimed picture in the history of the screen!

and now...

THE NEW YORK FILM CRITICS' AWARD...

"THE BEST FILM OF THE YEAR"

with

CELESTE HOLM · ANNE REVERE · JUNE HAVOC · ALBERT DEKKER · JANE WYATT · DEAN STOCKWELL · SAM JAFFE

Produced by DARRYL F. ZANUCK

Screen Play by MOSS HART

Directed by ELIA KAZAN

20th CENTURY-FOX